



476-1736

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In the application of : Leslie Derek Humphrey
Serial No. : 09/257,223
Filed : February 25, 1999
For : Engineering Operations Channel Provision
Examiner : Keith M George
Art Unit : 2663

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Director of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231," on October 11, 2002.

Name of person signing Jennifer J. Ramirez

Signature

RESPONSE

Honorable Director of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir,

In response to the Office Action mailed July 12, 2002 with reference to the above identified application, it is requested that the application be amended as detailed below.

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 12 and 13 as follows.

- Sub 2
A/9
1. (amended) Apparatus for providing a digital communication service over a line from a line termination equipment disposed at a central station to a subscriber terminal, wherein the line termination equipment and the subscriber terminal incorporate respective first and second management systems arranged to control and supervise said digital communication service via messaging therebetween